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Dr. Kurt L. London,

85, a retired CIA official who became the founding director of the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies at George Washington University, died of cancer July 25 at his home in Palo Alto, Calif.

Dr. London was born in Berlin. He took a doctorate in international relations at the University of Wurzburg and a doctorate in musicology at the University of Berlin.

He left Germany in 1932 and for the next four years lived in Paris and London. He came to this country in 1936 and settled in New York City, where he taught at the City College of New York and Brooklyn College.

In 1942, the year he became a U.S. citizen, Dr. London moved to the Washington area to work for the Office of War Information, a World War II agency, and then for the State Department. He joined the CIA in 1947, when it was organized. He specialized in Soviet foreign policy and communist affairs until he retired in the early 1960s.

He then joined the faculty of GWU and in 1962, when the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies was started, he became its head. He retired in 1970 as a professor emeritus.

Dr. London wrote or edited a dozen books on Soviet and foreign policy questions. He lived in McLean until moving to California in 1975.

His marriage to Charlotte Jaeger ended in divorce.

Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Jean London, of Palo Alto.